



General Management Plan Newsletter

Issue 1 • Spring 2003

***CANYON DE CHELLY
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE***

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Visitors

I am writing to announce the start of a comprehensive planning effort for Canyon de Chelly National Monument. The result will be a new "General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement" that will provide management guidance for the monument for the next 15 to 20 years. All units of the National Park system are required to have an approved general management plan. Over the course of this planning effort, National Park Service staff together with the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Zuni Tribe, other government agencies, canyon residents, neighbors, visitors, and monument stakeholders will have an opportunity to step back, examine long-range goals and management issues, and chart a course for the monument's future.



Canyon de Chelly National Monument was authorized in 1931 in large measure to preserve the important archeological resources that span nearly 5,000 years of human occupation. It encompasses approximately 84,000 acres on lands located entirely on the Navajo Reservation, and roughly 40 Navajo families reside within and on the rims of the Canyon. Although the National Park Service (NPS) administers the monument, the NPS and the Navajo Nation share resources and face mutual issues that frequently cross administrative boundaries. The NPS and the Navajo Nation seek to continue their working partnership and coordinate long-range planning efforts to achieve visionary future management of this special place.

The new general management plan for Canyon de Chelly will provide a broad conceptual framework to guide decisions for long-range operational management, resource management and protection, visitor appreciation and understanding, partnerships, and appropriate facility development. The management plan will articulate the monument's mission, purpose, and significance, and define the resource conditions and visitor experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument does not currently have a general management plan. Previous planning documents for the monument are outdated and do not adequately address the many complex issues currently requiring management decisions. As a long-term vision for management of the monument, the general management plan will set the direction for subsequent and more narrowly focused planning efforts. However, the plan will not include specific facility designs, resolve all park issues, or guarantee funding for the actions proposed in the approved plan.

I invite your participation in developing this plan. During this effort there will be several opportunities for you to contribute your ideas and concerns about the monument and help shape its future. Newsletters with comment forms will be distributed to the mailing list and posted on the monument's website throughout the project. There will be public meetings at key stages. And, when the "Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement" is produced, you will be invited to review and provide comments.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Scott Travis
Superintendent

Purpose and Significance of Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Monument Purpose:

- * To preserve outstanding prehistoric Ancestral Puebloan archeological resources for their scientific, cultural, and scenic values.
- * To preserve and protect features of historical and sacred significance to the Navajo and other Native American peoples.
- * To provide for the protection and care of other scientific features and objects.
- * To provide for the education, care, and accommodation of visitors to the monument.

Monument Significance: Canyon de Chelly provides an unparalleled example of a prehistoric Ancestral Puebloan landscape reflecting the relationship between community and environment through time. In addition, the canyon exhibits the historic and present utilization of the landscape by the Navajo people.

Mission Statement: The National Park Service and Canyon de Chelly National Monument work in partnership with the Navajo people and other Indian Tribes to protect and interpret Canyon de Chelly as a landscape of historical and sacred national significance,

as well as supporting and enhancing the cultural and social aspirations of the Navajo people.

Vision Statement: The Canyon de Chelly area serves as a source of inspiration, pride, and cultural understanding for visitors and Navajo alike. It is also a source of immense scientific and educational value. The National Park Service and the Navajo Nation are recognized as leaders in tourism-related development, providing quality visitor experiences, and ensuring resource protection. The Navajo Nation and the National Park Service work cooperatively to help visitors and Navajo people better understand the cultural, historical, and natural values of the Canyon de Chelly area. The National Park Service and Navajo Nation promote sound resource management, possess a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and natural resource values of the canyon area, and share information with Navajo residents. The Navajo Nation and local Navajo residents agree with and support the mission of the National Park Service for Canyon de Chelly, and jointly develop strategies for its implementation.



Why do we do a general management plan?

- To create a vision and clear direction for the park's future
- To establish priorities for allocating resources
- to achieve park goals
- To exchange ideas with the public
- To forge and strengthen partnerships
- To comply with public law and National Park Service policies

A new general management plan will clarify Canyon de Chelly N.M. role in working with others in the region on resource protection, tourism, and local economic development. Park stakeholders will participate in developing and articulating a vision of why Canyon de Chelly N.M. is here and where it is going in the future.

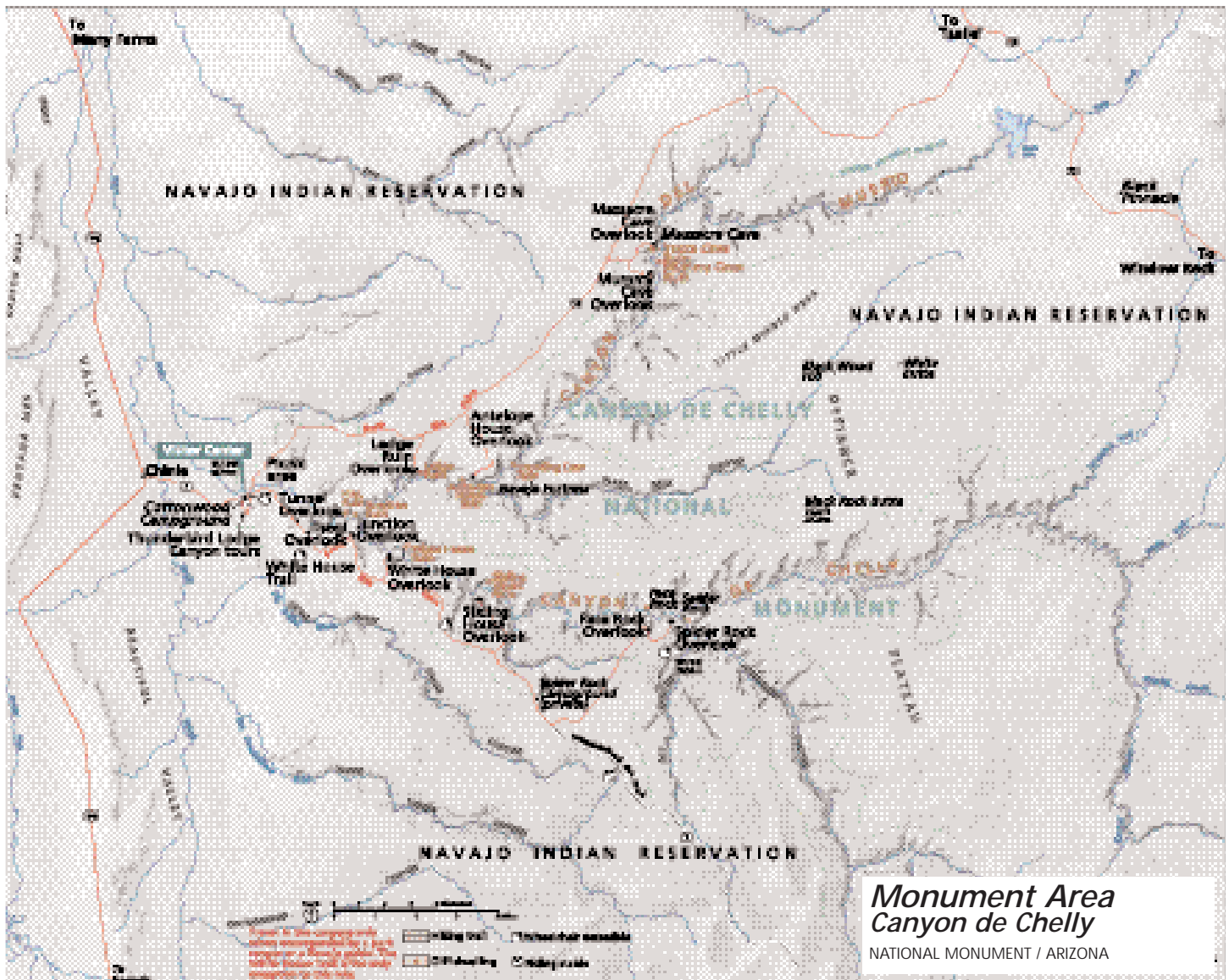
What is a general management plan?

A general management plan defines the fundamental management direction for a unit of the national park system. It focuses on why the park was established and what resource conditions and visitor opportunities should be achieved and maintained over time. The plan provides park managers with a framework for making decisions about how to protect park resources, provide meaningful opportunities for visitors, manage visitor use, and determine the kinds of facilities necessary to fulfill the park's purposes.



Meeting Date and Time

Please come to a public meeting on May 28, 2003 (5 to 9PM) at the NPS Canyon de Chelly visitor center to find out more about this planning project, meet the NPS staff and planning team, and express your ideas about the monument. There will be additional meetings later this summer and early fall to provide you further opportunities to discuss the planning project with us. These meetings will be held at several different places, and the locations, dates and times will be announced.

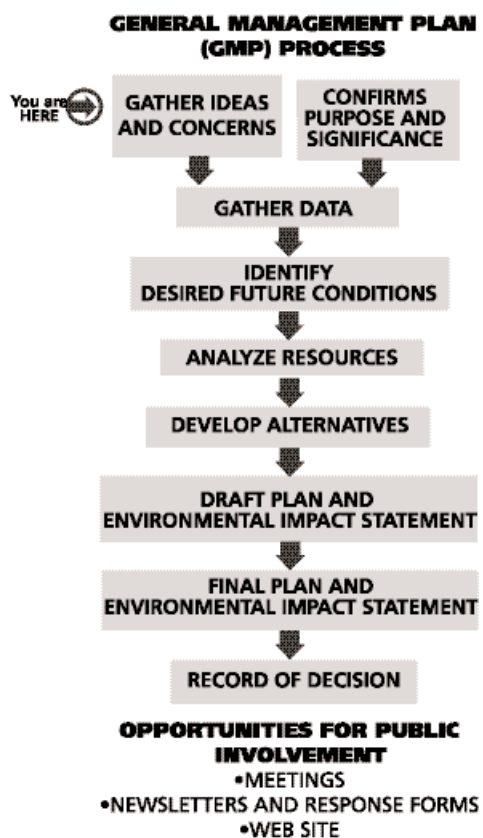




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The NPS Mission

Congress created the National Park Service in 1916 to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In fulfilling its mission, the National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

